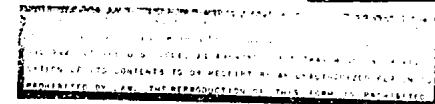


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IMPROVEMENT IN ALBANIAN EDUCATION AND CULTURE

P. Krennev

The report of the Statistics Administration of the Planning Committee, under the Albanian Council of Ministers, stated that the planned value of industrial production had been achieved 105.9 percent in 1951, and that the volume of production had risen 47.1 percent higher than the 1950 level. In agriculture, the Statistics Administration reported the overfulfillment of the 1951 spring and fall planting plan by the state and cooperative sectors. The forestation plan had been fulfilled 154.5 percent, while reclamation work reached 167 percent of the 1951 plan.

Science and culture kept pace with this economic improvement. Under Italian occupation, 80 percent of the population was illiterate. In the entire country there were only 643 primary schools with 52,000 pupils and 11 intermediate schools for children of the rich. There were no higher institutions of learning. Almost no schools were open to workers' children. For example, in 1938, in Shkoder prefecture villages there were only 16 schoolchildren, that is, one pupil per 1,000 inhabitants. In areas such as Dukagjin and Mirdite, there were no schools at all. The aim of education under Zog and foreign occupations was to produce obedient slaves and to introduce Western culture. As soon as the people's government was established in 1944, Enver Hoxha and his regime introduced reforms on the Soviet model in Albanian education and opened schools to workers' children. Educational institutions were divided into 4-year primary schools, 7-year schools, and intermediate and higher schools. Teachers were instructed in advanced Soviet pedagogical methods.

According to the data supplied by the Statistical Administration, at the end of 1951 there were over 2,000 primary schools in Albania, attended by 148,912 pupils; over 200 seven-year schools with 23,802 students, and 24 intermediate schools with 6,000 students. In addition, since coming into power, the government has opened technical schools for various specialties. These

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schools include polytechnical, medical, financial, and commercial institutes as well as technical schools specializing in petroleum and agriculture. Many special courses and 2-year vocational schools have also been established. At the end of 1946 a 2-year school was opened for teachers.

In the fall of 1951, three new institutes, namely, a polytechnical, an agricultural, and a pedagogical institute, were established, each with a 4-year course. Hundreds of workers' and peasants' children attend. Soon a medical and an economic planning institute will be opened. Many young Albanians who have attended higher institutions in the USSR and the People's Democracies, return to fill high posts in their country. Thus, for example, Piro Dodbiba, director of the Agricultural Institute, Ziya Kellygi, director of the Polytechnical Institute, and Hasan Duma Teyma, director of the Pedagogical Institute, studied in the higher institutions of learning in Moscow.

Pedagogical and teachers' institutes keep in close touch with the schools where students train to become teachers. Much has also been done in technical schools by fitting up laboratories. The students have everything necessary for normal life and study.

The first examinations have just been held [June 1952] at the Polytechnical and Agricultural Institutes, although work did not begin until 1 November 1951. The average mark in the Polytechnical Institute was 4.16 and that in the Agricultural Institute, 4.0. In theoretical mechanics 71.5 percent of the students received excellent marks; in botany 86 percent also had excellent marks. The students were very successful in tests on Marxism and Leninism and the Russian language.

The Albanian Institute of Sciences has organized a series of prospecting expeditions, which have discovered many beds of useful minerals. It is carrying on continuous research on fauna and flora as well as on climatic conditions throughout the country. It has already developed measures against pests, and found other means of increasing the yield of various crops.

The literary and linguistic section of the Institute of Sciences has finished work on a Russian-Albanian dictionary. It is also conducting research on Albanian literature, language, and folklore. New scientific, political, and technical terminology is being prepared, and work has started on the unification of Albanian systems of spelling.

The government and party are devoting much attention to stamping out illiteracy. Some 200,000 Albanians have already learned to read and write.

According to the modern Albanian author, S. Iazari, there are now over 2,000 primary schools and more than 240 seven-year and intermediate schools. By the end of the Five-Year Plan, in 1955, Iazari states that there will be no more illiterates in Albania.

The Union of Albanian Youth has been of great help in raising the cultural level in rural areas. In 1951, for example, the Union of Albanian Youth organized over 800 educational and political clubs, attended by about 16,000 young men and women. These clubs study Albanian history, international problems, and the achievements of the USSR and the People's Democracies in building socialism. Some 400,000 books have been distributed in country places, so that young people can become acquainted with the great Russian writers. In addition, about 380 culture brigades have been sent to villages.

There are now about 11 main libraries in Albania. The largest, the National Library, contains 120,000 volumes. There are about 127 reading rooms in the villages. There are also 21 homes of culture, where lectures are given.

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In 1951 the number of books and pamphlets printed reached 148, with 1,500,000 copies. A third edition of Stalin's works was brought out.

In the past 12 months four museums, nine new homes of culture, and 31 reading rooms have been opened. The number of readers in 1951 was 2.5 times greater than in 1950. The number of exhibitions, theatrical performances, and concerts is many times greater.

The Albano-Soviet Friendship Society has formed some 90 circles to teach Russian and popularize Stakhanovite methods. It organized two conferences for this purpose [dates not stated]. Conferences on kolkhoz methods are also being held. The main house of the Society in Tirana has organized more than 60 exhibitions of Soviet economic and cultural achievements. The Society also supervises the wide distribution of scientific, technical, musical, and other books and pamphlets received from the USSR.

Motion-picture theaters receive many Soviet films through Soveksportfilm. In 1951, Soviet films were seen by 3,751,400 spectators, that is, 56.6 per cent more spectators than in 1950.

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